WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A11>

1.   A structured document preparation method for preparing a structured document in accordance with a predetermined document type definition, comprising the steps of:

describing, into the document type definition, a plurality of element declarations which respectively define a plurality of different logical structures and also a plurality of entity declarations which respectively designate the defined different logical structures;

validating one of the described entity declarations to validate a corresponding one of the described element declarations; and

preparing a structured document in said one logical structure that is defined by said corresponding validated element declaration.

2.   A structured document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for each of the plurality of entity declarations, control information indicating whether the entity declaration is valid or invalid is additionally described.

3.   A structured document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of different logical structures include a logical structure form layout

4   and a table form layout.

1   4.   A structured document preparation method as

2   claimed in claim 2, wherein the plurality of different

3   logical structures include a logical structure form layout

4   and a table form layout.

1   5.   A structured document preparation method as

2   claimed in claim 1, wherein the structured document is a

3   Standard Generalized Markup Language document and the

4   document type definition is a Document Type Definition

5   which defines a document structure of the Standard

6   Generalized Markup Language.

1   6.   A structured document preparation method as

2   claimed in claim 2, wherein the structured document is a

3   Standard Generalized Markup Language document and the

4   document type definition is a Document Type Definition

5   which defines a document structure of the Standard

6   Generalized Markup Language.

1   7.   A structured document preparation method as

2   claimed in claim 3, wherein the structured document is a

3   Standard Generalized Markup Language document and the

4   document type definition is a Document Type Definition

5   which defines a document structure of the Standard

6   Generalized Markup Language.

8. A structured document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the structured document is a Standard Generalized Markup Language document and the document type definition is a Document Type Definition which defines a document structure of the Standard Generalized Markup Language.

9. A computer-readable recording medium on which a structured document prepared in accordance with a predetermined document type definition is recorded;

the structured document being recorded in a data file formed on said recording medium;

the data file at least having a region in which the document type definition is recorded and another region in which contents of the document are recorded;

a plurality of element declarations which respectively define a plurality of different logical structures and a plurality of entity declarations which respectively designate the defined different logical structures being described in the region in which the document type definition is recorded;

for each of the plurality of entity declarations, information which indicates whether the entity declaration is valid or invalid being additionally described.

1   10. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed

2   in claim 9, wherein the plurality of different logical

3   structures include a logical structure form layout and a

4   table form layout.

1   11. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed

2   in claim 9, wherein the structured document is a Standard

3   Generalized Markup Language document and the

4   document type definition is a Document Type Definition

5   which defines a document structure of the Standard

6   Generalized Markup Language.

1   12. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed

2   in claim 10, wherein the structured document is a

3   Standard Generalized Markup Language document and the

4   document type definition is a Document Type Definition

5   which defines a document structure of the Standard

6   Generalized Markup Language

ADD A2>

ADD C1>